

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /071 W

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O R 211145Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4969

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0177

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJ: BRITISH-RHODESIAN CONTACTS

1. ACCORDING TO NEWS ITEM IN CAPE TIMES FEB 21, RHODESIAN REGIME LEADER IAN SMITH TOLD HIS PARLIAMENT IN SALISBURY FEB 20 THAT HE HAD MESSAGE FROM BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY JAMES CALLAGHAN AND HAD SENT REPLY THAT DAY. SMITH REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT RUSSIAN EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE FREE WORLD INFLUENCES FROM SOUTHERN AFRICAN PRESENTED NEW SITUATION IN WHICH HE BELIEVED RHODESIA HAD REACHED A STAGE IN ITS HISTORY "WHERE IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO CHANGE OUR TACTICS."

2. REFERRING TO RECENT REMARKS BY CALLAGHAN AND HIS DEPUTY DAVID ENNALS, SMITH, IN COMMENT PRESS IDENTIFIED AS BEING FOR HOME CONSUMPTION, NOTED POLITICIANS' HABIT OF SPEAKING TO IMPRESS PARTICULAR AUDIENCES, THEN ADDED: "IN TIME WE WILL FIND OUT WHAT THE TRUE ATTITUDE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS TOWARDS RHODESIA."

3. PRESS ALSO REPORTS FEB 20 STATEMENT BY MR. CALLAGHAN THAT
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BRITISH GOVT COULD BECOME INVOLVED IN RHODESIA'S CURRENT

CONSTITUTIONAL NEGOTIATIONS ONLY IF IT WAS SATISFIED THHAT
SMITH WAS READY TO BE FLEXIBLE, THAT SMITH WAS TOLD HE
WOULD HAVE TO GO MUCH FURTHER THAN HE SEEMED TO HAVE DONE SO
FAR TO MEET THE CURRENT AFRICAN PROPOSALS, AND THAT COLLAPSE
OF TALKS WOULD HAVE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.

4. PRESS CITES RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN AS SAYING
THAT CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS WITH MR. NKOMO'S ANC WOULD RESUME
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26.
BOWDLER

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NNN

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